Management and improvement plan on the Cataró's farm

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June 2017

Introduction and objectives

An analysis into managing practices on a swine farming, including its organization, genetics, buildings, nutrition, health status, human resources and its productive and reproductive results, has been done so as to identify what kind of improvements could be made in the farm to optimize a proper operation and performance.

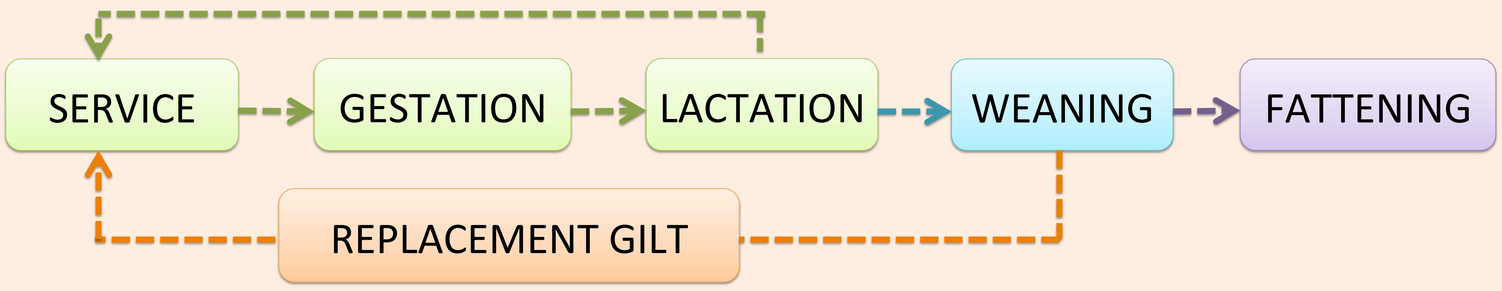
Cataró's farm, which is a family business located in Ivars d'Urgell, is the target in this field study. The swine farming has 500 productive sows, 960 weaned piglets and 2.400 fattening pigs, where the lactation lasts 4 weeks and pigs are 24 weeks in the fattening phase. The annual production is about 12.000 pigs.

The objectives of this study are:

- Understand the farm's operation and its performance.
- Identify abnormal and improvable production situations.
- Go into detail about improving the productive and reproductive results.

Productive and reproductive parameters on 2016	
Annual renovation rate (%)	42,7
Fertility rate (%)	91
Farrowing rate (%)	90
Farrowing interval (days)	147,1
Weaning-to-service interval (days)	6,4
Total number of piglets/litter	12,50
Number of live-born piglets/litter	12,53
Number of reared piglets/litter	11,05
Lactation lenght (days)	26,7
Number of rared piglets/ productive sow/year	27,02
Weaned piglet cost (€)	21,8

How does the farm work?



Improvable production situations

	Cataró	Target
▪ Worst feed conversion rate in fattening phase with **liquid-feeding** than with dry-feeding.	2,5	<2,29
▪ High number of stillborn piglets and **loss of piglets during farrowing and lactation**.	18,2%	8-15%

Liquid-feeding

Whereas in Cataró's farm is used a dilution with 27% of dry matter at the beginning of the fattening phase and 24% at the end, it is recommended to use a dilution with 29% and 25% respectively. When there is a low proportion of dry matter, the pigs' intake is limited because there is so much water and they don't have more capacity in the stomach. Thereby, little piglets need more dry matter and less water on the liquid-feeding.

The byproduct used in this feeding is wet grain corn, but there is the suspicion that they do not use enough to reduce the feeding's economic cost.

It has to be proved if the problem with the feed conversin rate is related with the low use of wet grain corn or if it is because of de dilution water:dry matter.

Loss of piglets

The number of stillborn piglets is higher in the old buildings (1,02) , specially in these farrowing units with slotted plastic floors, where the management is complicated and piglets have difficulties to maintain their temperature.

The mortality rate during the lactation is higher in the new buildings (13,48%), where sows have more freedom to move and there are more crushing accidents.

Type of farrowing units	Total number of piglets/litter	Number of live-born piglets/litter	Number of stillborn piglets	% loss piglets during lactation	Number of reared piglets/litter
Old	13,25	12,23	1,02 (7,70%)	11,81%	10,78
New	13,68	12,75	0,88 (6,40%)	13,48%	11,07

Conclusions

- The % of dry mattering in the liquid-feeding during the fattening phase is probably lower than it should be.
- The farrowing management should be improved and the farrowing synchronisation should be limited.
- The sows' mobility during lactation should be more restricted so as to reduce the number of crushing accidents.

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